

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6001

C O N F I D E N T I A L NASSAU 1615

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR CU BF

SUBJ: STATE OF PLAY ON CUBAN ISSUE

REF: STATE 202340

1. IN COURSE OF SEPT 16 MEETING WITH MINISTER ADDERLEY, AMBAS-
SADOR NOTED PRESS REPORTS THAT TIES BETWEEN CUBA AND BAHAMAS
WERE IMMINENT AND ASKED FOR ADDERLEY'S COMMENT. ADDERLEY SAID
"WE ARE DOING THE SAME SORT OF THING YOU ARE DOING, BUT WITH
GREATER NECESSITY." ADDERLEY ADDED THAT MEDIA ESTIMATES THAT
ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS MIGHT OCCUR WITHIN WEEKS PROBABLY
OVERESTIMATE THE RAPIDITY OF EVENTS BUT SUGGESTED THAT TIES
WOULD BE ANNOUNCED CERTAINLY "WITHIN TWELVE MONTHS". HE
LEFT STRONG IMPRESSION THAT DECISION TO ESTABLISH RELATIONS HAS
BEEN TAKEN IN PRINCIPLE AND THAT WHAT REMAINS NOW IS QUES-
TION OF TIMING.

2. ADDERLEY REFERRED TO MAP OF AREA SURROUNDING BAHAMAS AND
SAID IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT AGREEMENT ON "SEA BOUNDARIES" WAS
NECESSARY WITH U.S., CUBA, HAITI AND PERHAPS DOMINICAN REPUB-
LIC AND UK (FOR TURKS AND CAICOS). HE SUGGESTED THAT GOOD
RELATIONS WITH ALL THOSE COUNTRIES WERE NECESSARY TO REACH
AND MAINTAIN SUCH AGREEMENT. HE EMPHASIZED THAT GENERAL AIM
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OF GCOB FOREIGN POLICY WAS TO FURTHER THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL

DEVELOPMENT OF THE BAHAMAS IN A MARITIME SETTING.

3. AMBASSADOR OUTLINED US POSITION AS FURNISHED REFTEL. ADDERLEY SAID HE UNDERSTOOD US AND OAS POSITION AND NECESSITY FOR CAUTION, SINCE "FRANKLY" HE THINKS THE POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT IN CUBA IS NOT VERY STABLE AND MIGHT SOMEDAY CHANGE SUDDENLY OR REVERT TO THAT OF TEN YEARS AGO. GIVEN LIMITED NATURE OF BAHAMIAN CONCERNS AS OUTLINED PARA 2 ABOVE, HOWEVER, ADDERLEY SAID BAHAMAS WAS IN A LESS COMPLICATED SITUATION VIS-A-VIS CUBA.

4. ADDERLEY SAID THAT "WHEN RELATIONS BETWEEN CUBA AND BAHAMAS ARE ESTABLISHED, IT IS NOT CONTEMPLATED THAT THE NATIONS WILL EXCHANGE PERMANENT DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVES. HE SAID THIS WAS RESULT OF GCOB POLICY NOT TO RECEIVE RESIDENT MISSIONS IF BAHAMAS NOT IN A POSITION TO RECIPROCATE "AND HERE WE WILL NOT WISH TO RECIPROCATE", ESPECIALLY IN LINE OF BILATERAL COMMERCIAL OR CONSULAR INTERESTS. ADDERLEY SUGGESTED THAT ONLY NATION OTHER THAN U. S., UK AND JAMAICA WITH WHICH BAHAMAS WOULD EXCHANGE RESIDENT DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL IN FORESEEABLE FUTURE IS CANADA.

5. COMMENT: ADDERLEY LEFT DEFINITE IMPRESSION THAT GCOB HAS MADE DECISION TO ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH CUBA AND THAT ONLY QUESTION REMAINING IS TIMING. GCOB WILL CERTAINLY KEEP AN EYE ON POSSIBLE DEVELOPMENTS IN US AND OAS FORA IN TIMING ITS OWN MOVE SO AS TO BE NEITHER "TOO EARLY" NOR "TOO LATE".
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